[5th September 1928

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Evidently from the question the Government thought the hon. Member was referring to foreign supply."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know how the Government arrived at the conclusion that if indigenous supply could be got by a private firm, it could not compete with the foreign supply ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" By comparing the cost of foreign supply with the cost at which local manufacture can be sold in the market."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to have some idea as to what the foreign material would cost, and also the way in which the Government arrived at their conclusion."

Medical

Facilities for the training of nurses and midwives in the Presidency.

*151 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the facilities obtaining in the Presidency for the training of nurses and midwives and 'dhais' at suitable and convenient centres ?

A.—Facilities for the training of nurses, midwives and 'dhais' exist at the following places in the Presidency :

(i) Nurses—

Nurse pupils are trained at the following centres :—

(1) General hospital, Madras.
(2) Rayapuram hospital, Madras.
(3) Victoria Caste and Gosha hospital, Madras.
(4) Headquarter hospital, Vizagapatam.
(5) Do. Guntur.
(6) Do. Tanjore.
(7) Do. Salem.
(8) Do. Calicut.
(9) Do. Mangalore.

The question of increasing the number of centres is under consideration.

(ii) Midwives—

Training schools for midwifery pupils exist at the Government hospital for Women and Children, the Government Victoria Caste and Gosha hospital and the Raja Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar Lying-in hospital, Madras. Pupils can also be trained in any mufassal lying-in hospital in charge of a female medical practitioner or to which a qualified European or Anglo-Indian midwife is attached. It is understood that midwives are also trained at the Christina Rainy hospital, Tondiarpet.

5th September 1928]

(iii) Dhais—

A scheme for the systematic training of 'dhais' at district headquarter, municipal and taluk headquarter hospitals approved by the Surgeon-General was sanctioned by the Government in January 1926 and the Surgeon-General was asked to take steps to give effect to it in consultation with local bodies. Up to the end of the year, 19 local bodies had undertaken the training of dhais. The report for 1927 has not yet been received. A list of hospitals [a] declared by the Surgeon-General to have facilities for the training of dhais, i.e., where an average of 40 or more labour cases are conducted in a year, is appended.

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—"May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health whether any special arrangements have been made for gosha ladies who wish to undergo training as nurses and dhais?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"If the hon. Member means that there are no facilities to ladies to observe gosha when undergoing training as nurses and midwives, then I am afraid there are none."

Mr. Adbul Hamid Khan :—"May I know if the hon. Minister will think of making such a kind of special arrangement?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"*Prima facie* it will be impossible to give training in midwifery to gosha ladies."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know if any facilities are given by way of scholarships for undergoing such training?"

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—"May I know in which of the institutions provision has been made for the training of Oriya or Oriya-knowing ladies as midwives and dhais?"

The hon. Mr. S Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"I have no definite information. I believe in those tracts some pupils may be trained as nurses and midwives."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know why Ceded districts have been omitted?"

The hon Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"Because no hospital was reported to have the necessary facilities for the special training of midwives and nurses. If any of the hospitals in those districts offers special facilities for the training of nurses, the Government will take up the matter."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Public Health why no arrangements have been made to make Vellore where there are two or three Mission hospitals and one Government hospital a centre for the training of midwives and nurses? When you have got students for being trained for University qualifications, may I know why you have neglected the training of nurses in that place where you purpose spending six lakhs of rupees for the sake of four women students?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"The institutions are a private institutions and it is for the authorities in charge of them to do it if possible."

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a Printed as Appendix V on pages 319-320 infra.

[5th September 1928

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—"May I know whether it is fact that representations have been made by the boards of Ganjam on this question."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"At present I have no information."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to communicate with the headquarter hospital authorities in my district to give facilities for the training of nurses."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"That will be considered duly."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"In Vellore there is a hospital with about 100 beds with every facility. Is it not convenient for the Government to arrange for the training of nurses and midwives there? Government are making contribution to a Mission hospital there; can they not arrange for the training of nurses in that hospital just as they do in a Mission hospital in Madras—I mean the Rainy Hospital."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"I thought the hon. Member was referring to the training in Mission hospitals. But if he means that training should be given in Government hospitals, I may say that we have not yet come to the conclusion to extend facilities to every hospital. We have just started the training of midwives and nurses in one or two hospitals and we can proceed only step by step, and when opportunity comes, other hospitals also will have their chance."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"In view of the answer given to my hon. Friend from Cuddapah, may I point out to the hon. Minister that there is a first-class hospital at Kurnool? If he is aware of that, will he include that hospital also in his scheme of training midwives and dhais?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"The Government are aware that there is a first rate hospital in Kurnool. If there are facilities for extending the scheme to that hospital also, it will be considered."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"With regard to the training of Muhammadan women as dhais and midwives, there is a hospital in Vizagapatam for Gosha ladies; may I ask the hon. the Minister whether such women cannot be trained in that hospital?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"I am thankful to the Member for the suggestion and it will be duly considered."

Contract for the supply of stores to Government hospitals in Madras during the last five years.

* 152 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement of the various firms to which contracts were given for supply of medical and other stores to the Government hospitals in Madras during the last five years; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) the system according to which medical and other stores are obtained for Government hospitals in Madras and the rest of the Presidency;